AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (**Currently Amended**) A fastening device, comprising:

a case, in which an axial member is inserted,

a lock piece slidably disposed in said [[a]] case and biased by a spring toward a fastening position wherein it is engaged with the [[an]] axial member in the [[a]] case, and

a releasing member, which is connected with said [[the]] lock piece, is ~~by a pin and~~ disposed in the case, ~~said releasing member being configured for manual bias to~~ moves linearly toward the axial member and [[to]] displaces the lock piece away from the fastening position, thereby releasing the lock piece from the axial member, wherein

a tapered section, which has a slope that gradually goes away from said axial member along the insertion direction of the axial member, is formed on said case,

said lock piece has an engagement tooth, which becomes meshed with said axial member and which is formed on a surface opposed to the axial member, and a slide surface, which is inclined in the same direction as said tapered section and which is formed in a way to correspond to the tapered section, and

said lock piece slides along the tapered section so as to move to a fastening position and to become engaged with the axial member, while the lock pieces slides in an opposite direction along the tapered section so as to separate from the fastening position.

2. (Previously Presented) The fastening device described in claim 1, wherein said releasing member moves in the direction perpendicular to the insertion direction of the axial member, and said spring forces the releasing member to move in the direction perpendicular with respect to and away from the axial member.

3. (**Currently amended**) A fastening device, comprising:

a lock piece slidably disposed in a case and biased by a spring toward a fastening position wherein it is engage with an axial member in a case,

a releasing member connected with the lock piece by a pin and disposed in the case, said releasing member being configured for manual bias to move linearly toward the axial member and to displace the lock piece away from the fastening position, thereby releasing the lock piece from the axial member~~The fastening device described in claim 1~~, wherein:

guide grooves that extend in the direction perpendicular to the insertion direction of the axial member, are formed on outer surface of the case,

the releasing member has guide arms that slide in the guide grooves, and

the guide arms and the lock piece are are interconnected by the pin.

4. (**Cancelled**)

5. (**Currently amended**) A fastening device, comprising:

a lock piece slidably disposed in a case and biased by a spring toward a fastening position wherein it is engage with an axial member in a case,

a releasing member connected with the lock piece by a pin and disposed in the case, said releasing member being configured for manual bias to move linearly toward the axial member and to displace the lock piece away from the fastening position, thereby releasing the lock piece from the axial member~~The fastening device described in claim 2,~~ wherein:

guide grooves that extend in the direction perpendicular to the insertion direction of the axial member, are formed on [[the]] an outer surface of the case,

the releasing member has guide arms that slide in the guide grooves, and

the guide arms and the lock piece are are interconnected by the pin.

6. (**Cancelled**)

7. (**Cancelled**)